TRICKS OF SHOPLIFTERS.

HOW THEIR SCHEMES ARE FOILED.

ARRESTED PERSONS USUALLY OF THE CRIMINAL CLASS-THE INEXPERIENCED THIEF.

A case of shoplifting recently reported in THE TRIBUNE is typical of a number of such cases which are made public every year. We find, as a rule, that the accused people, generally women, evidently belong to the professional criminal class. Now and then perhaps a case does occur in which some unfortunate woman, who by the circumstances of her life and position would seem removed from the necessity, and almost bereft of any motive for such petty pilfering, has, nevertheless, succumbed to temptation and endeavored to walk out of a store without attending to the slight formality of paying for what she carries out with her. Whether the so-called Rieptomania can be allowed as a plea for the defence in these cases is a point it would be out of place to argue, as is also the question as to whether moral obliquity is to be less severely punished when its possessor is habited in brocaded velvet than when a gingham gown and a battered bonnet compose her outer garments. It is apparcut, however, that more temptations are nowadays thrown in the way of the amateur, and more opportunities afforded to the professional shoplifter, than was the case a few years ago. The dry-goods store of to-day has, by a consistent process of evolution, become a huge barnar, in which rows upon rows of tables are heaped high with personal knickknacks of utility and adorn-ment. Periodical "openings" attract such crowds of customers that they outnumber the attendants and aniespeople twenty and thirty to one, and as one pair of eyes can only be fixed on the movements of one customer at a time, it follows that the remaining nineteen or twenty-nine can for a space of time, more o less brief, follow their inclination even if they should be predatory, without let or hindrance.

A TRIBUNE reporter called upon several of the leading retail dry-goods merchants of the city and conversed with them, or their representatives, on this subject. As might have been expected, the large Sixth-ave, and down-town stores complain the most, while those on Broadway, whose business is conducted on more conservative line find themselves to be little troubled by customers with shady notions as to the value of meum and tuum. PROFESSIONAL THIEVES DRIVEN AWAY.

"We rarely have much trouble," said Messrs Arnold & Constable, "for we believe in the old adage, that 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.' We, therefore, have a private detective, who is a skilled physiognomist as far as the Rogues' Gallery goes, and who watches every one that comes into the store. If a known professional enters she is politely told that some other store is much more likely to supply her with the goods she is in quest of. If she does not take the hint, the request for her room in place of her company is made in plainer language. Anyhow she is got rid of with all expedition. We find, however, that few trouble us with a visit. The fact of the matter is that our store is perhaps the worst hunting ground in th city for these marauders. It is rarely crowded, our customers are mostly known to us or our employes, and we have no 'openings' or other days of excessive and ex

NO "OPENINGS" AND FEW TEMPTATIONS. One of the firm of Lord & Taylor said : " We are chiefly on the lookout for 'professionals,' but employ no regular means of detections for a detective's time would be wasted utterly in our store. The amateur shoplifter is rarely found in the rank of life from which we draw the major. ity of our customers, and the professionals know that ex-cept in rare instances a business visit to our store would result in a loss of valuable energy. Just look about and you will see how difficult it would be for any one to parloin anything save under the eye of a salesman or saleswoman. We have no small articles caped up on tables and counters, and the only opportunity given for purloining is when laces and such like il goods are being displayed by one of our assistants We rely, too, on our customers, who would at once make known the fact should they observe any one getting away with any thing. Now and then, of course, we have a cas brought to our notice, but we only take action when we know it is a professional. In other cases we let the guilty party go unpunished, save for the shame of detection we consider is the best preventative against a wee ond attempt."

A STORE WHERE THIEVING IS RARE. One of the firm of Macy & Co. was found in the pleas ant, artistically furnished room which serves them as an office. "We really attach very little importance to the subject," said he, "for I imagine that in proportion to the size of our store we lose as little by shoplifting as any msiness-house in town. We have a policeman stationed on the sidewalk outside, a 'plain-clothes' man inside, and a corps of many hundred watchful detectives in the shape of our salespeople. That's the secret. Our own people are continually on the watch and the cus Now and then, of course, to our notice, but we h ense is brought cented more than half a dozen cases in the last five years, and those were all regular thieves. I think we have more frouble with pickpockets than with shop lifters for the former profession is an easy one newadays there is an unpleasant scone in this little office when some richly dressed customer is brought before us and accused by our detective of secreting some of our property. The will pay twenty times the value of the stolen article. only for Heaven's sake do not expose me!' and as a rule we do not, for what end should we serve! As it is we can rest assured that the experiment will not be repeated

A DETECTIVE NOT ALWAYS USEFUL. "I have had a good many years' experience." said on of the firm of Simpson, Crawford & Simpson, " and though

I cannot pretend to estimate the amount of our yearly loss, it must be something considerable. Professionals ! Well, no. We manage to 'spot' them by means of our detectives as soon as they come into the store; that is, as a general rule. But occasionally, of course, they get in and try to get out rather more burdened with un paid-for dry goods than when they entered. Why, only the other day I saw a woman sitting at the glove-counter, with her ambrella by her side leaning against the counter. As she turned over the gloves she occasionally dropped a pali into the umbrella and glanced round in a furtive manne to see if the coast were clear. I stood silently watching her for some time, and then our eyes met. I walked quietly up to her and said : 'Why, you didn't think you could play that game here did you ! That racket 's played out, you know, by this time. She was as cool as you please about it, but I let her go as soon as she had opened her umbrella and let the gloves fall out on the floor. Now that weman is known to us after that, and could as soon that weman is known to us after that, and could as soon get into Vanderblit's drawing-room as into this store. As I say, we have a detective, but we trust more to our dwn shop-walkers than to blin. He knows the old-limers, but he would have to be possessed of a hundred pair of eyes to look after the peculators. Talking about detectives, I remember when I was in a Philadelphia house years ago, we cumployed a detective who used to strat in an imposing manner about the first floor. One of the firm one day looked down the well in the centre of the building and saw Mr. Detective filling his pockets with various unconsidered trilles. He didn't detect any longer in that establishment. Do you know that my impression is that ing and saw Mr. Detective filling his pockets with various mean-diered tritles. He didn't detect any longer in that establishment. Do you know that my lupression is that most of the thefts are committed by women who are far removed from anything approaching to want. We are more on the lookout for professional pickpockets than for shop-lifters, and the present absurd fashion indies have of carrying their pocketbooks in a daugling hand-bag adds greatly to the number of lost purses. Often we find at empty pocketbook on the floor and know the whole story at once. The bar has been defly opened, the pocketbook taken out, reglig opened in its turn and the contents transferred to the fine's pocket.

SOME OFFENDERS THAT EXCITE PITY. One of the firm of Ridley & Co. said: "I do not think more than I per cent, probably even less than that, of the cases brought to my notice by my employes are profes sional shop-lifters. The remainder belong to the respectable classes - women, sometimes, who are in poor circum stances, but have the reputation of being perfectly honest. They come in here to buy some small necessary article, see a chance of picking up a pair of warm stockings, think of the little cold legs at home and succumb to the tempta-tion. My heart bleeds sometimes, when a poor respectable looking woman is brought ofore me with a child in her arms, sobbing as though her heart would break, when she bears as though her heart would break, when he hears the shop-walker's charge of theft preferred against her. I always let them go with a caution, for where would be the use of losing two or three days in following the case up. It is curious how many of the women thus caught carry a child in their arms or else have two or three little todders holding on to their skirts. I need not say that it would loubly hard with its to prosecute in such a case, and in bt the prefessionals recognize the fact and act upon We caught a woman not long ago who had a little gir i her and when she was searched, what they call in with her and when she was searched, what they call in their thieves parlance a 'kick' was found on her. A kick' is a wide-mouthed bag, which is hung in front of the person undermeath the clook and terves as a receptacle for stolen and terves as a receptacle for stolen are from, and was recognized as an old offender. As a general thing, however, the class i have referred to provides the greater number of small thieves, and instances come to my notice every day. Only resterday I was on the dist floor and saw a weman quietly walk up to where some jet ornaments were hanging and, pulling one down, put it into her pecket. I just walked up to her, asked her for the stolen article, and told her to get out of the store. Another woman, who was brought to me and charged with taking some children's stockings, went a terri and told me she was a poor widow with five children at hom I detained her while I sent round to her home to make inquiries and found her story was true and that she here agood reputation among her neighbors. She also was a good reputation among her neighbors. She also was let off with a warning."
"Do you believe in kleptomania?" Do you believe in kleptomania?"

As a synonym for stealing, yes. As an uncontrollable
ing for which the person sifficted is irresponsible, no.
hink there is much noncense talked about kleptomania

as about the homicidal mania, and each is simply an easy way of making things easy for people in a good position who have committed a crime."

THE IMPUDENCE OF PROFESSIONAL THIEVES. One of the Ehrich Brothers smiled as he said We lose more than I care to say every year by small undiscovered thefts, though every care and diligence used to protect ourselves and our customers; but in a store as large as ours how can you help articles being stolen and pockets picked ! Of course, like every other large house we have a private detective constantly on the large house we have a private detective constantly on the watch. But I can tell you it would take half a hundred detectives to begin to catch all who fileh little articles, generally of personal adornment, and who are generally well-dressed and respectable people. In fact, the majority of those caught are really rich people. Only last month one of our regular customers, the wife of an exceptionally wealthy man, was caught stealing a trifle worth only a dollar or two. She made the usual excuse of a sudden impulse, and we felt almost as badly about it ourselves as she did. She comes and buys her goods to-day as if nothing had ever happened. But the professionals fly at higher game, and if they once effect an entrance they make us smart for our carelessness. I have known a woman to steal a cloak one day and come back the next to exchange it because it did not fit. Quite lately my brother, who has been away and not attending personally to the business, was walking through the hat department when a woman with a child in her arms came in and asked him to kindly change the hat which was on the child's head for another shape. He asked her what she paid for it, and her answer was a price so far below what he knew must be the real value of it that he called a salesman and asked him if they had been selling hats at that price. A decided negative was the answer, and the woman was questioned while the salesman run for a detective, but my brother's attention was diverted for a moment, and when he looked round woman, child and stolen hat had disappeared." watch. But I can tell you it would take half a hundred

THE HUMORS OF SIGN PAINTING.

"Since the days when Spence, over here in Pearl st., hung out a sign which told his customers that he would sell calicoes at 5 cents a yard less than any other man in the business, and his competitor, Jones, began to give it away, thus forcing Spence to plank down a nickel to every yard he gave away-since those days," said a sign painter in Park-place, "there has never been a livelier time among merchants competing with each other as to who should get up the most attractive aign to We sign painters are gener ally given a rough idea of the kind of sign that is wanted and we are expected and allowed to cover all the details. and our reputation depends upon the singularity and attractiveness of arr work. We must centinually be de signing something new and out of the old ruts.

"Sign painting has grown like everything clse, and it ontinues to grow not with standing the cheap advertising rates in the daily papers. There will always be a large proportion of buyers, especially among country people, who will be drawn to a store much quicker by a good sign over the door than by any other means. Of course signs do not always tell exactly the truth. A certain distinguished minister in this city once put this question to his congre-gation: 'Why,' said he, 'can't people be honest! Where is the man who will dare to paint over his own door Dry-bads' instead of 'Dry-goods,' and thereby tell

"There are some people who are extremely particula

about their signs, and who prefer to paint their own, and I need not tell you that they do not always wield the brush with an artist's skill. I know of many such signs in the city which are quite attractive and which would do credit to an amateur painter. But there are others which lean every way 'for Sanday,' and you are bound to laugh when you look at them. Then again there are some very odd signs which are curiously constructed. Citizens in the neighborhood of Thirty eighth-st, and Eighth-ave, ought to congratulate themselves on being near the Biggest and Best Bread on the Avenue, and the inhabitants of Goatville are, no doubt, jealeus of A. Wright, Original Butter," who hangs out his sign next door to 'A. Just, and practical hair Cutter. 'Little, The Big Painter,' might do an act of philanthropy in 'B. Half' of those who follow sedentery pursuits by enlarging the letters of the sign in Baxter-st, while reads, 'Pants mended-in the rear,' Sulfivan and the Maori shouldn't mind a little slugging now and then, for in Maori shouldn't mind a little slugging now and then, for in Canal-st they can have 'black eyes painted' at a moment's notice, and find across the street a 'Hono-made Dinner' fit for a — long-shoreman. The 'Gee Wah' laundry is suggestive of ox driving on the plains, and it reminds us of the cow-boys to read how the youngsters in a country town one April night chanced the first and the last letters of the sign over the largest grocery store in the village, which was 'Bell & Muli.' It amused the town several days, but when the proprietors discovered the joke there was some tail swearing."

"What are the most popular styles of signs at present it "Glass and gelatine letters are the most in demand. The latter are new and beautiful. They cout from ten to sixty cents a letter, and, belng separate, can be wet and stuck on to anything. They are nearly transparent and highly colored, and when glued to a ghass window present a beautiful appearance with the lights flashing through their many colors. They are durable. Glass signs are being perfected very fast, and there will soon be a revolution in sign painting if the improvement goes on."

provement goes on.

"SCHOOLS" IN ART.

A FEW WORDS FROM AN ARTIST WHO CRITICISES SHARPLY.

"Strictly speaking," said a prominent artist to a Termuna reporter, "there are but three schools in art—Antworp, Paris and London. The first, called also the 'Flemish School,' and the 'School of the Netherlands," is noted for true color and its values, and for solidity of painting. Ten Eyek drew his picture carefully, nd then filled in with paint, while Rubens, Teniers, Va. Ostade and Franz Hals made at first a rough drawing applying the paint in a free, off hand manner, and the gradually worked up to the finished state. But, all thes painters paid close attention to the points I've just noted. By 'solidity of painting' I mean that for instance, the texture of flesh, slik, satin, etc., was honestly rendered and not dim'r, indistinctively sug-gested. The so-called 'Munich School' is simply an abuse of this Flemish School. When Franz Hals went to a pot-house for a drinking-bout he paid for his gin by dashing off an 'ebauche,' or rough, half-sketch of the ullion, or bar-keeper, or any 'pal.' These have been saved, sold and put in museums; and the Moniel painters now worship these dranken droppings from Hals's brush, forgetting that Hals was great only in his sober works, which are finished productions. If these 'charches' thus imitated have strength, it is a rough, rude, barbarous strength, and no amount of self-complacent assurance that a 'second sight' is needed to appreciate them can make them any

amount of self-compacent assurance that a second sight' is needed to appreciate them can make them any less brutal.

"The second school noted, that of Paris, runs to skill in drawing and to brilliancy of style. Clever composition and facile handlwork are prominent, but so, also, are trilling subjects and tricks of the brush. With great technical ability, the French artist and his young American papil seem to lack a purpose nobly serious. What I may call the high morality of painting is lost sight of in the desire for ephemeral reputation and material betterment.

"The Impressionists' Headed by Manet, they are feeble copyists of the great landscape painters, Rousseau, Daubigny, Diar, Corot, Dupré, These men painted the very soul of the landscape, and with a subtle suggestiveness Manet and those with him have adopted the apparently easy handling of this great school as a sort of a cross-lot means to success. They forgot or ignored the fact that that handling was tolerable only when it expressed the site of the pressed the supersion they were incapable.

pressed ideality in landscape, of which expression they were incapable.

"The third, or London, school stands for academic conventionality, a close adherence to old models. Crudeness of color—a red that is very red for instance—predominates, also. Of course there are exceptions, but the Barne-Jones men, etc., are in the inhority.

"In our own country, what has been called the 'Hudson River school," added the artist, "comprised men of incontestable talent, earnest students of nature, often rising to a high plane of postic feeling. But they were poor in technique (not having had the educational advantages afforded young artists of to-day), and they leaneds largely toward the panoramic side of nature and the callsm of geology and botany."

AN ELEPHANT THAT READS.

AN ELEPHANT THAT READS.

From the New-Orleans Times-Democrat.

Louis E. Cook, agent of Cole's Circus, tells a remarkable story that illustrates the elephant's wonderful expactly for receiving and retaining impressions, and, at the same time, shows the great possibilides still offered in the direction of educating the pachyderm.

"Our trainer, George Conklin," said Mr. Cook, "while in New York last winter, had several conversations with an eminent coolegist, who among other choories, advanced this: That the elephant could be faught to read written characters. He explained that the education of the great beast had gone even further than mere feats of memory, either in the matter of language or judging of shapes and forms. It had been trained to de work of many kinds in the East, such as piling immber in systematical columns, and even setting the heavy stones in masonity so that expert workmon found it seldom necessary to make any changes in their position. The cumming of the elephant was well known, for the trained monster was often used to lure his wild brethren into snares, and trequently assisted in throwing and holding down the captive until the chains were placed upon blin.

"The zoologist ased other arguments of the same kind, and Conklin at last determined to make the attempt and determine the possibility of teaching the elephant how to read. He selected 'Rajah,' a 15-year-older for the experiment. He got a blackbuard two teet long and eight inches wide on which to inscribe the letters. He did not begin, however, by teaching the animal the alphabet. He did not seem to want to make the experiment in that way, as it might be too tedious; but, as you know, ring or trained elephants know all the words of command spoken by the trainer. They will stop when he cries' half, move on when he says 'march,' run at the order to 'double-quick,' and indeed obey every word epoken to them.

by the trainer. They will stop when he eries 'hait,' move on when he says' march,' run at the order to 'double-quick,' and indeed obey every word spoken to them. Well, Conklin hit upon this plan. He took 'Rajah' into the ring at least once levery day, and writing the word 'March' in Roman characters about five or six inches long on the beard, 'placed it before the animal's eyes and after allowing him to sean it, then pointing to the white letters, shouted the order 'March,' which, of course, was complied with. He found by writing the letters, while the beard was held before the elephant, was a surer way of attracting the animal's attention to the characters, so he new writes in this way. Rajah soon grew accustomed to the board and the letters, and now very seldom makes a mistake when a written command is presented to him. He will march the moment the last letter is finished, halt when the trainer shows him the word, and, indeed, recognize every inscription of this the word, and, indeed, recognizes every inscription o. this kind Conklin places on the board. The elephant will not be introduced into the ring in this new act until next season, by which time the trainer thinks it possible to educate the whole herd in reading, so that the words of command may be given in writing on a large blackboard. Having succeeded so well in teaching Rajah to read words, he will now try to advance backward by teaching him the alphabet, and I myself think it possible that the elephant, which is quick and intelligent, may be taught by means of lettered blocks to spell the words that he is familiar with in the ring."

STEWED SCALLOPS. ANOTHER EXPERIMENT IN CHEAP BUT DAINTY

DISHES. The impecunious ex-Alderman and the impeunious gourmand with the red mustache met in the vicinity of the City Hall. They saluted cordially, and the former ornament of the municipality of New-York remarked, "It's about lunch time, so I suppose you are going to our usual place."

"No, I am not," was the answer. "I am going to give myself a treat. You see if I reduce two meals five cents each I am able to afford myself one meal of thirty cents, and still preserve that average of twenty cente to which I have anchored myself by the firmest vows. To-day I propose to enjoy the luxury of stewed scallops. "Are you, really ! I never ate a scallop in my life, and always looked upon them as an inferior kind of oyster."

"Ah, that was a terrible mistake. I once knew a man who entertained the same error, but was converted by accidentally eating a fried scallop on one of those promis cuous dishes in drinking saloons which are provided gratultously. He had often seen the dish with little brown balls in it, and felt a curiosity to taste one of them, but had refrained on account of the exceedingly dirty hands of revellers that were plunged in with the freedom of Turks or Arabs. A dish in all its virgin purity was just brought into the saloon, and my friend had first grab. He seized one, ate it, and became an immediate convert to the scallop."

"I've half a mind to be converted myself," remarked the Alderman; "how far is the place where you get

them !" "Just around the corner of Fulton-st. I have to confine my gastronomic experiments to the neighborhood of the newspaper offices, so that my beat is limited. But the importance of these grave questions of the stomach, which underlie all human happiness, cannot be overestimated. Now, I must warn you that the scallop is not it the least like an oyster. His flavor is more akin to the lobster, but is sweeter and without the rankness which exists unmistakably in lobsters. Perhaps the scallop is a trifle too sweet, and this ought to be corrected by the preparation. There are some people so illogical as to cook the scallor in milk, which only increases the awectness, which should be restrained. I am of opinion that the true way of accommodating him, as the French say would be in curry, not of the usual kind, but of the tama rind variety. If you, oh Son of Gotham's Councils, had ever eaten fish so prepared, you would know the value o suggestion. Another way would be by a judicious mingling of broken potato, bread crumbs and scallop

on say?"
"I think they are, but you must not misurederstand me.
Vien I said scalleps were more like lobsters
han opsters I did not mean to imply that they
core exactly like the former. To my paint
he American scallep, particularly the gentleman from
thode Island, occupies a position unitway between the
dister and the calemany of the Penfente. This, you
may be the squipl, or entitletish. There's a place down on
carbet, near Maiden lane, where, I am told, one can get with the septa sauce so highly relished by the Do you mean to tell me that any Christian people eat

squid!"
I d., emphatically. I know a place near Union Square y mave calamares twice a week, and sometimes the young ones with rice. It's a famous dainty

y have the young ones with rice. It's a famous dainty falencia."
I hope I'm not in company with one of that queer club teats all sorts of dreadful fish food as an experiment, on they are not half polsoned for a week, they coule that each dish was a tromendous success."
No, no, Alderman, honor bright. I'm a true brother, it only what has gained the assent and approval of remailmentities. New York is going to be line grandeity that the world has ever known. It will be thorship casmopolitan, and is becoming so now. But there taissin for us to accomplish. We ought to learn the many secrets of the different nationallities radding, and easy them to take some of our raw material experiment with it. Much has been done in this rect by the magness. I do wish that some of the atted darkey ladies wanth try their hands at the scallops, there they come." at there they come."

An immense saucer was set before each missionary in

An immense samer was set before each missionary in the cause of cullnary progress. In it doubted in a thick same some thirty scalbup, perfectly white to color, and about a cubic ired in size, some smaller and some larger. The sames was thickened with potato probably, but was decidedly wanting in savoriness, being without herbalor pepper. The scallops, however, were delicious, tender, and fasteful, almost melting in the mouth, and of a flavor that suggested lobster. Each atc his portion like a man. "They cause heaviness, don't they I" asked the Alderman, subsequently feeling his waistband. "They do," replied the other gournand, "but we have eaten what is nearly equivalent to three dozen sawved oysters, and our stomachs have a right to feel full. I do wish they would give us two-thirds of the scallops made tharge two-thirds of the price. They would then meet my views to a dot."

Way I inquired, "said the Alderman in a reflective manner, "was because I thought a pony of brandy might be correct from a medicinal point of view," His companion concurred, and they "ponied" precautionarily.

VIGLINS-OLD AND NEW

TRICKS IN REPAIRING-THE PUDDLE DISTRICT OF

NEW-YORK. In the upper stories of several houses along

the Bowery, in the neighborhood of Seventh st., is done nest of the violin making and repairing of this city. In disited by a Thinuse reporter yesterday. The place was a typical musical work-shop. The walls and shelves were lined with violins, violas, and cellos, in various tages of dismemberment and repair; bodies with top r bottom gone, necks unattached to bodies; pegs strings, and cases, scattered about in picturesque confuion; and almost everything covered with the dust of weeks of disuse. The violin-maker was a weathy representative of his art. A stout, cheery old German, his life has been spent, in a certain sense in an atmosphere of music. He himself plays several instruments, and is acquainted with nearly all the prominent performers of the country. All his time and labor, however, have been devoted to the manufacture and repairing of violins-a work which demands not only mathematical care and precision, but regulres also great experience and musi-

"A violin can never be so seriously intured," said the cheerful old man. " that it cannot be made almost as good as new. If it be broken to pieces and the fragments preserved, they can be put together again in time, and he tone of the instrument be scarcely perceptibly inlured by the process. This is a work of so much time and expense, however, that most repulrers resort to the easier expedient of furnishing a new back or a new belly instead of replacing the old fragments. The comparative case and cheapness with which this may be done has given occasion to the most frequent deceit practised in the vielin trade. A maker, for Instance, comes into possession of an old and valuable Cremons. He carefully removes the back and substitutes a new plees of wood stained and discolored in inutation of the old violin. The back which he has removed he next fits to a new belly, neck, and sides, and then puts his two violins on saic. The first purchaser is shown the violin with the old portions, points out the unmistakable marks of age in the color and grain, and the buyer, especially if inexperienced, pays the price of a Cremona. The next purchaser is shown the tolor and grain, and the buyer especially if inexperienced, pays the price of a Cremona. The next purchaser is shown the instrument with the old back, by which in many cases the buyer is equally deceived. Thus by a few nours of labor the manufacturer disposes of one cleap and one expensive instrument for the price of two ared by the process. This is a work of so much tim I a tew hours of labor the manufacturer disposes of one heap and one expensive instrument for the price of two activ Creatoms. The fact is, "concluded the old man, anxly, "our trade is like most others—a great deal more fill is devoted to deceptive imitations than to work of maine and honest merit."

A JAPANESE FISH WITH PANTALETTES.

Eugene Blackford has on exhibition in a tank at Fulton Market seventy-five fine specimens of the Japanese King Hi O, a monstresity of the gold-fish family, which is bred by the Japanese by a process known to them alone. The peculiarity of the King Hi O is that it apparently wears pantalettes with a double row of frills. This singular effect is produced by a thin, nexible film that is attached to the tall and the fins. While every King Hi O wears pantalettes, there are three different varieties of the fish in Mr. Blackford's tank. All but three pairs are of the ordinary gold color with the white-frided pantalettes, but one pair, called Albinos, are pure white, while two other pairs are mottled brown and white, with prominent buiging eyes that are called "telescopic,"

Mr. Blackford values his seventy-five King Hi Os at \$7.500. They were brought from Japan by the captain of the steamship Oxfordshire in six tanks, and required the the steamship Oxfordshire in six tanks, and required the closest attention night and day. The captain fed them with a kind of Japanese roll made from rice flour and eggs, and Mr. Blackford will give them the same food while his present supply lasts. Then he will try leeding them as he does his German carp, as the frilled King Hi O belougs to the carp family. Only two of these monstresities were ever brought to this country before. This was when a single pair was sold to the New-York Aquarium five years ago for \$300 each. Recently the Brighton Aquarium, England, tried to secure one hundred King Hi Os, but succeeded in getting only three to the Aquarium allye, at a cost of £750.

ENGLISH AS SHE IS WROTE.

Prom Puck.
Miss Ellen Terry's strident gait . . . ". "... Miss Ellen Terry's strident gait ... "... Hartford Fost... STRIDENT, a. [Lat. stridens, p. pr. of stridere, to nake a grating or creaking noise ... | Characterized by harshness: grating, "A strident voice."—Thackeray.—Webster's Dictionary. DEATH TRAPS IN THE BOWERY

ONLY ONE SAFE THEATRE IN THE STREET. THE PROVISIONS MADE AND THOSE NEEDED IN BE

HALF OF THE AUDIENCES. Since the Windsor Theatre was change in a few hours from a place which every night held a great throng of people to a heap of ruins, the unanimity of opinion expressedas to its having been what is called a "death trap" is remarkable. That hundreds of people were not roasted alive or crushed to death in their frantic efforts to escape, as in that horror of horrors the Brooklyn Theatre fir was a matter of the merest chance, is admitted with equal unanimity. The lightning-like rapidity with which the flames shot through the Standard Theatre, only a few days later, showed that an appalling destruction of life would have resulted in that wretchedly constructed oullding if the fire had broken out when the house was full of people. But it is a striking fact that all the flood of righteous indignation poured on the two theatres was kept back until the final catastrophes had occurred and

there was no fear of "injuring business." The lessee of the Windsor is reported to have said that he was the "happiest man in America." and that he 'thanked God" that the fire did not happen during a per formance. It is possible, however, that if Mr. Stevens had been asked six months ago what he thought about his theatre as regards the safety of its audience in case of fire, he would have answered, "It is one of the safest houses in the city." This, at least, was the invariable answer returned to a TRIBUNE reporter who made a round of various other Bowery houses, which in some cases were vastly worse than the burned theatre. The science of fire proof building has been so much more thoroughly studied of late years, the care exercised by the city authorities in regard to inspection of existing buildings and approval of plans of new ones, is supposed to be so much greater that little excuse can be found for a manager who admits that great loss of life would have been inevitable had his theatre caught fire when an audience was present.

CONDITION OF THE THALLA THEATRE.

After the destruction of the Windsor, Superintendent Esterbrook was reported to have said that its opposite neighbor was almost as unsafe. A TRIBUNE reporter, who has had some practical experience in theatrebuilding, accordingly called on the Thalla management. and was received with great courtesy and readily allowed to make a thorough examination of the premises. The iThalia was built many years ago, and as the Old Bowery s dear still to many veteran theatre-goers. Planned at a time when land was less valuable than at present, and when its patrons were the leading people of the city. from those causes alone it secured an immunity from the worst vices of the modern theatre. The lobbles and passages were not confined, and there was free passage-way on either side. Later changes in its surroundings have, to a certain extent, cut off these advantages, but they still go far in its favor as compared with some up-town houses.

The first point which strikes one on entering is that the rectly opposite them, an important matter, and one too often disregarded. The visitor finds in the auditorium that the old "Bowery Pit," sung by Harvigan and Hart, nd beloved of the old theatre-goer, has been cut up into two divisions by a raised platform at the back which follows the lines of the boxes above. This is a serious blun der and one which should never have been committed The present management state that it was necessary, owing to the recent lowering of the galleries and the taking of one of the tiers away altogether. Whatever it was due o, the effect is highly dangerous. People finding their way down to the orchestra seats have to balance them n a series of extremely objectionable steps. Should the Brooklyn disaster ever be repeated at the Thalla, it is about these steps and along the line of the orchestra-cir-

a rule, well placed and sufficient. At each side of the pro-scenlum boxes is a door which leads into a passage having direct access to the street, and, in case of a sudden alarm through these two doors occupants of the front rows of the orchestra could readily find their way to comparative safety. A door on the north side also communicates with the Atlantic Garden, a public resort open to a late hour. The doorways leading into the front vestibule are wide and swing outward. It is when one comes to this vestibule, which is a double one, that the chief danger of a sudden rush is apparent. Into the inner of the two vestibules a wide stairway on each side leads and forms the only entrance to the first gallery or balcony. A sudden rush of panic-stricken people down these stairs would meet the stream pouring out of the ground floor at right creased instead of diminished when the outer vestibule pouring down two other stairways from the gallery above The easy and simple remedy for this is to fend off by rall ings or otherwise one entrance from another, and to this end the wide, unencumbered front offers every advan As to special means of exit on the upper floors, the re-

porter found that an iron door led from every floor to a corresponding floor in the Atlantic Garden, and, if the would be afforded. On the night in question, however, it took several minutes for the manager, who knew the se eret of the ingenious latch, to get it open. Little fault, if any, can be found with the means of exit from the stage, as there is a street passage on each side and a large rea opening used in the old days for the admittance of horses In view of the fact that the hoose holds an enormo audience, certain changes seem destrable, and even more than merely destrable. The sudden break in the level of the orchestra floor can easily be reduced by taking away ne or two steps from the front entrance, and carrying th floor down to the stage in one inclined plane. The differ ent parts of the house each should have distinct entrance and exits, particularly the latter. The special exit door as otherwise they become worse than useless. No theatr in the city affords better opportunities than the Thalia for being rendered perfectly safe and at a small expense. I should be added that the reporter was informed by the nanagement that Mr. Esterbrook has recently expressed

THE DANGER AT MINER'S THEATRE. posite side of the street, stands "Harry" Miner's Variety Theatre. As it was built by Mr. Dud ne eight years ago, the reporter naturally expected to find it almost perfect, and affording every facility for easy egress. There are, however, serior blunders and errors. As in the Thalia, the balcony and orchestra entrances are so placed that one stream of outcoers would strike with deadly force on the other in case of a panic; but, unlike the Thalia, the ground floor the steep incline, is perhaps the safest in the use. It is when the narrow stairway leading to the baleony is ascended that a nervous shiver runs through one. There is a sort of subsidiary untenanted baleony behind, which serves no purpose save to block up the al ready narrow outlet of the stalrease. On the north sid of the house, it is true, there is a door which opens on to an iron staircase leading to the pool-room next door. As this room is separated by a brick wall, it makes a sure de, fence in the time of trouble. The upper gailery is steep and provided with an insufficiently wide stairway, dis-

himself as entirely satisfied with the building.

and provided with an insufficiently wate starway, dis-charging into the general lobby.

The exits from the stage are ample, and consist of two short stairs leading to doors at the back. At the time of the reporter's visit, however, the utility of these was nul-lified by large piles of scenery and properties, which effec-tually blocked them up. A broad passage also was under the centre of the auditorium, and, by an arched doorway leads through a thick brick wall into the adjoining build-ace. Safety therefore seems in this theater to be secured leads through a thick oriek wan into the adjoining billings. Safety, therefore, seems in this theatre to be secured for the performers and employes, but the audience is in serious peril. The objectionable curves in the front of the first balcony stairway should be promptly cleared away, and the stairways, in all cases, widened to at least six feet. The walls are all of brick, plastered directly on the brick, and with a total absence of "furring" or "strapping."

WHERE THE PERIL IS SLIGHT, Directly above this place is Mr. Miner's new People's Pheatre, and here many of the evils of the older theatres have been avoided. But the fact that the front of the house is occupied by stores is a grave oldection. The walls are of brick, with the plaster laid directly on, and there is no lumber-stored basement under the auditorium to act as a birthplace for fire. The gallery has one en trance leading directly to the si dewalk, and a special exit giving admittance to the roof of the fr out building and thence to the street by an iron structure six feet wide. The balcony has a broad staircase and a similar exit on to the roof. The doors on each side of the orchestra lead into a foyer, which connects by a special door with the street, and the front entrance is large and well planned.

A PLACE OF GREAT DANGER. In striking contrast to this new and well-considered

building is the next so-called theatre which one comes to The London Theatre is a "death-trap' of the worse kind, although it was built within the pres ent decade. To give a detailed account of the state of things the reporter found prevailing in this "ramshackle" building would be impossible. From basement to roof it is dangerous to human life. The auditorium is divided from the vestibule by a lath and plaster parti. tion, plerced by three small doors. The first gallery is reached by one narrow winding stairway, which is co tinued in a still narrower and more rickety fashion t reach the large gallery above. The effects of a frenzied rush down these two stairs could not fail to be appalling.
Under the stage are the dressing rooms, reached by two
crippied step-ladders, and entered one from another, or
from low, tortuous and narrow passages. The audience
are permitted to smoke at discretion, and discretion in the
case of this class means a continual puffing and random scattering of lighted matches. As it stands at present the London Theatre is a frightful menace to human life.

THE PERILS OF THE MUSEUMS. Scattered here and there along the Bowery, but especially thick in the lower portion, are those concert "dives," which are only less dangerous from a physical than from a moral point of view to their frequenters. They usually consist of a long, narrow room, with only one entrance, which leads from a bar room in front. Luckily entrance, which leads from a bar room in float. Advances they are seldom crowded, and so the peril is not so grave as in the case of the museums. It is difficult to imagine anything more dangerous than these, of which there are several on the Bowery. An ordinary dwelling house with the ground floor transformed into a small theatre, and the upper partitions undisturbed, crowded often by a mass of people who can scarcely find breathing space—if the lower floor catch fire few could escape.

A WONDERFUL TALKER IN FEATHERS.

THE INTELLIGENT BUT ERRATIC REMARKS OF A SMALL JAVA FOWL. "It's a musical grackle," said Mr. Holden, the

bird man. The bird in question, which was being gazed at by a Tribune reporter, looked like Sterne's Starling during a protracted spree. The amount of drunkenness conveyed by the idiotic straddle of its yellow legs and occasional swaying hops on the floor of the cage was appalling. "Yes, sir," continued Mr. Holden, "be's a musical grackle, scientific name Minor, christian name 'Ros.' short for Roscoe because he's a good talker with a short temper. He goes to Boston to-night in exchange for a check for \$225, and he's cheap at any price. How are you to-day, Ros. t"

The inebriated bird staggered against the side of the eage for support, and cocking his black head on one side gave a senile laugh, and in an aggrieved tone answered: ' None the better for your asking.'

"What's your name !" queried the bird-man. Roscoe. Handsome Ros." answered the man-bird.

"Can you sing ! Won't you sing, Ros. !" entreated his wner. " Peek-a-boo, peek-a-boo, I see you hiding there. I can

sing, I can. I can sing, I can," chuckled the fleudish fowl.

"Oh, go slow, go slow," contemptuously replied the oird, and staggered about his temporary home with drunken gravity.

"Come, sing," said Mr. Holden. The ornithological Satan deliberately turned his back and began to pick up a stray seed or two and munch them with calm indifference, only betraying his shocking con-

dition by an occasional lurch. "Won't you sing Peck-a-bool" entreated his owner The bird looked over his left shoulder and with an air of

ineffable disdain said, " Go to the deuce!" "Oh, you don't mean that," replied the bird-fancier Be a good bird and sing." The good bird jumped sav agely around, and began fluttering his wings and scream ing like the midnight cat. "I won't, I won't, I won't,' be uttered in the intervals of the bideous din.

" Come sing, like a good bird. Sing Peek-a-boo," and Mr. Holden began the strain dear to Mr. Scaplan. The bird stopped his fluttering, stood in the middle of his age, and in a voice as hourse as a man-of-war's boat swain and an evil glare in his off eye, croaked out, "Oh ro to hades!" and promptly went to sleep.

"That bird," said Mr. Holden, turning away with a augh, "Is one of the best talkers I have ever known. He is in a bad temper to-day, or he would answer my ques tions for half an hour. He invariably ends up with thos two choice specimens of profanity. They are the only ones to his vocabulary, and be only employs them when he gets tired and is bothered. I am particularly fond of getting him to talk before ministers, and always egg him on till he lets out as he has just done." "Why do you let him use such language before

"Because they always enjoy it more than a layman. That bird comes from Java, and is one of the rarest imported to this country, and they are the most wonderful talkers in the world. Next to them come the gray parrots, then the lemon-crested cockatoos, and the double yellow-headed parrots. Those birds you see haddled together in that cage are white Australian parrots, which have not been imported here till just lately," and he pointed to a cage about three feet long, in which were over a score of large white parrots, with a faint tinge of rose-color about the head. The words were hardly out of his mouth when a middle-aged woman, wearing a long waterproof cloak, bounced in.

"You ought to be ashaused of yourself, you wicked man!" she exclaimed, "cooping those poor dear birds up in that fashion."

"But, Madam —"

"Don't Madam me, you cruel monster. They haven't room to breathe, and I'm going straight off to dear Mr. Bergh."

"But, Lassue —" That bird comes from Java, and is one of the rarest im

elergyman ?"

room to breathe, and I'm going straight off to dear Mr. Bergh,"

"But, I assure—"
"I don't want your assurances. Fil have you dragged to prison and made to let the poor innocents go free!" and she bounced out again.
"That's the accound one this morning," plaintively remarked the bird-fancier, "and the fact is, the birds like it and are happier so than if they were in separate cages. They haddle together closer than that in their Australian forces," and the natives earth accorst with one throw of a

net."

An American expressman, who had just got a receipt from the assistant at the back of the store for a package of money, passed out, and as he went asked the proprieter what he "cooped them birds up for?" "To fatten em for Thanksgiving Day," snapped out Mr. Holden, 'Good gosh! Do folks eat them things! Well, you do surprise me," and the expressman wagged his head with ouch crayity. surprise me," and the expressman wagged his head with nucle gravity.

"He believes it," said the man of many birds; "he's like some of my customers. The che-kier the yarn the better they like it."

GETTING SEALSKINS READY TO WEAR.

THE PROCESSES OF PLUCKING AND GREASING-

TRICKS OF FURRIERS. The rough hides of wild animals, which, shool histories teach us, formed the primitive clothing of our "barbarous ancesters," when touched by the magic art of the fur dresser become the most luxurious wraps of the modern society belle. It is pleasant for our pride in home manufactures to know that furs are dressed as well in this city as in London, the great fur mark of the world, though the fur dyer repeats the old story of American haste. The processes of dyeing furs in this country are too rapid, and trustworthy dealers are compelled to send the skins of our own seal and other fur-producing animals to England to be dyed properly.

The wholesome projudice which existed against dyed furs before scalskin was introduced was so completely overcome at one time that the mass of furs sold were dyed. At that time all sorts of artificial means were resorted to in order to enhance the appearance and price of the natural fur. The tiny gray hairs, which are found only on the costly sea-otter, were imitated by sewing white hairs in beaver and sealskin Eccentric furriers went so far as to "point" their furry trimmings with grebe feathers. These superficial fancies have happily passed away, and at present there is a revulsion of taste against all artificial treatment of fur-Unplucked and undyed for are now to fashionable de-

All furs that are "plucked," that is, scalskin, otter beaver, nutria, and sometimes muskrat and mink, are first thoroughly soaked and washed with borax soap and water. Fur skins are ordinarily sent to market dried by the trappers, but sealskins, on account of the large masses of blabber adhering to them, are usually salted down. After soaking, the skins to be placked" are put through a process of "sweating," tu which the wet skin, pelt downward, is placed in a hot room in winter, or in summer when the mass of the skins are dressed, in the hot sun for the winter trade. The fu soon dries leaving the pelt damp, and the skin is passed over a bearn and the workman with a dull knife pulls out the long, course hairs, leaving only the soft plush-like fur, which grows near the pelt.

Chinchilla, the little South American rodent, is the only animal whose fur in a natural state compares in softness with plucked sealskin. Ofter, when plucked and dyed, losely resembles scalskin, though it is a deeper, more durable fur. Beaver is a similar fur, which is cheaper nan otter. It is used principally for capes, muffs and trinmings. Large quantities of muskrats, caught in our rivers, are yearly dressed and dyed like seatskin, and prepared by unscrapulous farriers to deceive the unwary. Nutria is another fur which is not sold by the furrier under its own name, but is usually used as beaver. It is a species of South erican animal resembling a beaver. A year ago, when mink skins, which were formerly sold for \$5 each, were reduced in price to 50 cents, a few mink skins were plucked, but thus tiny creature possesses too little soft lowny fur to be used in this way. After sealskin and other furs are plucked they are placed with unplucked furs, and are ready for the first regular step in dressing,in which al are carefully rubbed with good butter. No other oll or grease can be used in dressing skins. The furrier is as suspicious of rancid butter or oleomargarine as the most fastidious housekeeper. A taint in the butter which is used leaves an unpleasant odor in the fur, which may be readily detected. After the skins are thoroughly greased, a number are thrown together into the hogshesds, which are arranged in rows around the room where the furs are dressed. Here stalwart workmen in bare feet stand, one in each hogshead, and trample the skins under foot for twelve hours. No machine has ever been invented which will take the place in dressing fine furs of this primitive process. Common wolf-skins and other coarse hides are besten by a beam by steam, but sables, scalistin, ermine and handsome furs must be trampled under the feet of men. After the butter is thus thoroughly driven into the hide the skin is scraped free from any fless which may achieve to it, or any surplus thickness of pelt, and all the long bairs which project on the inside of the skin are sheared off. The fur, now thick with grease, is taken to a room where huge revolving drums are seen slowly moving, with a furnace of coals beneath each. The skins are thrown into these drums, which are halffull of hard-wood sawdust. The sawdust from rosewood or makegany planks is generally used. The furnace beneath the drum keeps its contents heated to an even temperature, and thus the grease on the fur is gradually absorbed. A set of skins is generally put through three logsheads, which are arranged in rows around the

or four drums of sawdust before it is tried by the dresse who blows each near the tall where the fur is thick, as

natural color the skins are sorted and sent at once to the fur-dealer.

The process of coloring is always injurious to furs. The powerful nut-gall dyes which are necessary to color the fur of the seal, otter and other land animals are so strong that they burn away the pelt wherever they touch if. These furs can only be dyed a certain distance below the surface, and the natural color of the fur should always appear near the roots, and the fur should always appear near the roots, and the fur should always be blown apart to assure the purchaser that the dye has not "sunk too deep."

The fur of water-animals does not "shed," while that of all land-animals falls out more or less, according to the time of year when the creature is caught. Furs from Hudson's Bay are stronger, though coarser in texture, than those caught further North.

The long polar night bisaches the fur of all land-animals to a snowy whiteness, and in the intense cold in the vicinity of the Arctic Circle the coarse fiece of the fox acquires an exquisite softness that resembles the down of the elder duck, though the pelt of this beautiful fur is proportionately delicate and thin. The rabbit-skins from our native woods, which are the cony trimmings used by furriers, are strong and durable, though the fur is short and coarse. The Siberian rabbit, which are of ashionable and so frail, has a long silken fur which protects it from the cold, but its skin is so extremely thin that, after the fur is dyed, it must be pasted on cloth to hold it together.

WHERE TO GO FOR GOOD LIVING.

HINTS BY AN EPICURE AS TO THE LARDERS OF VARIOUS DISTRICTS. He was a good liver, it was easy to see that,

and as he puffed away at an Havana eigar he discussed the food of different parts of the Republic. "Now, here in New-York," said he, "you can get anything to eat that you want, provided you are ready to pay for it. The only trouble is that the best things suffer from transportation and are never quite fresh. If you want to eat good things at their best you must eat them in their native wilds, as it were. Maryland is a good place to eat in. There you get plenty of terrapin and delicious oysters. Good beef and milk are plenty, and Chesapeake Bay and the rivers that empty into it furnish excellent fish. Then eggs and poultry are abundant there, and one can manage to be very comfortable. Florida is probably the worst place on the globe for a man who likes a good dinner. Outside of Jacksonville and St. Augustine, and a few resorts for Northern pleasureseekors, it is impossible to get a square meal, and even in those cities the living is not anything to boast of. You might as well try to eat your old shoes as the native beef there. Milk is a scarce article. A Florida cow that gives three quarts at a milking is regarded as a wonderful ani-mal, and a cow giving two gallons a day is looked upon as a strange and unnatural animal. They have plenty of chickens there to be sure, but chickens get rather monotonous after a while. The oysters are fair, but only fair, and unless one can reconcile himself to living on fruit and poultry he should stay away from Florida.

"New-England is not a bad place. The oysters far nished by Massachusetts and Narragansett Bays are superb, and can always be had fresh, which is a great point. George III. was the only man I ever heard of who ilked his oysters old. That royal reprobate, I believe, used to prefer his a little ovsters from Narragansett Bay suit me better than any I ever ate. They are brought from Maryland and Virghila and planted in the bay, where the admixture of sait and fresh water gives them a delicious thavor. Excellent meat of all kinds and plenty of rich milk can be had in New-England. The numerous bays and rivers yield she of all kinds in abundance, and he who has not eaten Connecticut River shad and Taunton herring has missed two great delicacles. The poultry of New-England is first-class. It is drawn immediately after it is killed, and its an agreeable contrast to the filthy, undrawn stuff sold in the markets of this city. Block Island turkeys have a big reputation and are excellent eating. To those to the manor born, the articles of food most precious are, of course, baked beaue, Indian pudding, steamed brown bread and johney-cakes. Beans reach their culminating point in Boston, and Johnny-cakes in Rhade Island. I have never seen any of these New England dishes properly made outside of that section, which is probably the reason they are generally executed by outside barbarians; but eaten on their native heat they are not half bad—in fact I consider the Indian puddings delicious. In the West the beef and venison are delicious. Game and fresh-water fish there are also of fine quality. In fact for ment of all kinds and for game and some kinds of fish the West ts unequalled by any part of the country." ovsters from Narragansett Bay suit me better than any

THE SEASON FOR DANCING.

PLANS FOR THIS WINTER'S BALLS.

MANY EARLIER THAN LAST SEASON-THE ACADEMY AND THE NEW OPERA HOUSE, The time when Terpsichore rules the feet, if

of the hearts and minds, of many people has begun, and miles wreath the countenances of musicians, caterers, positistes and tailors. Going around to the principal places where balls take place in the winter, a reporter of THE TERBUNE found that nearly all the favorite gatherings of the season were to rise again this winter from the ashes to which they dwindled in the early mornings a year ago. Though Lent come unusually early last year, compelling the balls to take place early, the dates will be still earlier this season. It appears as if each had tried to get ahead of the other. The Charity Ball occurred last year on January 25, but this season it will lead off on January 3; the Old Guard Reception is on January 10, instead of January 18 last year: the Palestine Commandery will its friends on January 15, instead of the 31st last year; and the 22d Regiment Reception is changed from January 20 to January 7. The Purim Ball, the great ball of Hebrew society, will be March 11. All of the above entertainments will take place at the new Metropolitan Opera House, and the Charity will have the advantage of being the first ball in the new building. This will undoubtedly give to it a new zest, and attract many persons who have refratned from attending in past years, either because they thought the ball an old-fashlor gathering, or preferred smaller and more exclusive receptions. The Charity Ball, however, remains the ball of the season, on account of its excellent management, benevo-lent object and the class of people who attend. It is the only large public ball of the year usually which the most fashionable people attend in any great numbers.

ient object and the class of people who attend. It is he only large public ball of the year usually which the most fashionable people attend in any great numbers. The arrangements for the ball are not yet in an advanced state. Bernstein will conduct the music with a large orchestra. Boxes are now offered for sale, and every effort will be made to have the ball surpass that of any previous year. Among those who are most active in its management are the president, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mrs. Daniel Aopleton, Mrs. Edward Cooper, Mrs. Algernon S. Sullivan, Mrs. S. L. M. Barlow and Mrs. Kingsland. Mrs. Thomas Hitchocek, No. S. East Twenty-ulnth-st., bas charge of the sale of boxes. The Nursery and Child's Hospilal receives from \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually from the Charity Ball.

The andience-room of the Opera House will be floored over on a level will be state, and the ball-room on the Thirty-ninth-st side of the building will be ready for use. It is about 60x70 feet, and connects with the foyer. This ball-room can also be used for small dancing parties when the large auditorium is in use for a different purpose. The dressing-rooms will be on the ground floor, it is expected that the new house will have unusual facilities for serving retreshments without annoyance.

The 22d Regiment also hope to ecipse any previous effort. Glimore's Band will furnish music and there will be a brilliant gathering of military men. The Old Guard will, in their opinion, have a more attractive reception this year than ever before. The sale of boxes will be opened soon. Many noted military cryganizations from Boston, Philadelphia, Utda, Troy, Woreester and other cities will be present. Bernstein will furnish the music.

The Palestine Commandery will have some new features in their drill, which always forms an interesting part of their annual reception. They have reduced evolutions to so fine an art that people will wonder what further they can accomplish in that direction. The usual management will be in charge, and there will be many prom

a number of children in new evolutions and tableans for the annual glimpse of fairy-land. Other buils to be held at the Academy are the L'Amittle on January 28, the French Cooks on February 5, and the Prospect Association on January 31. The Society of the Benevelent Oxider of Elks will give their annual bail at the Madison Square Garden on January 11. The Arion Ball will take place in the same building later in the season.

Among the balls at the Brooklyn Academy of Music will be the Clinton Commandery, Kni. hts Templar, on January 29; the Eutre Nous Society on January 14, February 18, March 17 and April 14; and the Emerald Ball, Brooklyn's great litish sathering, on January 30. The Union Boat Club Ball will take place at Terrace Garden on January 28. The Newark Assembly comes off at Newark December 27. The Staten Island Clarity Ball will probably occur in January.

Among the smaller and more fashionable gatherings the Patriarchs gatherings at Delmonno's are the most important. They will be held on January 28 and February 25. The Family Circle Dancing Class met on December 3, and will meet again on January 14. The first of the Cotillon balls will be held on December 27, and the remaining Ladies' Assemblies are to be on January 17 and February 14, all of the above at Delmonico's.

Various smaller dancing classes will meet again balls.

monico's.

Various smaller dancing classes will meet at private houses. The new Goelet houses may be opened with balls. In Brooklyn the Assemblies and the Brooklyn Heights Dancing Class will be continued, though the dates are not yet fixed.

How is it Done ?- (Turnham-green Railway Station.)—Young lady, arriving just in time to see a train leaving station, inquires: "How often do they run to the Mansion House!"—Porter: "Every, quarter of an hour, Miss.—Young lady: "When is the Exet!"—Porter: "In twenty-five minutes, Miss."—[Judy.